FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE  
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ASIAN AMERICAN BAR ASSOCIATION OF NEW YORK CONGRATULATES NUSRAT CHOUDHURY ON HER HISTORIC APPOINTMENT TO BE A FEDERAL JUDGE IN EASTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK, FIRST BANGLADESHI AMERICAN AND FIRST FEMALE MUSLIM UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE

NEW YORK—June 20, 2023. The Asian American Bar Association of New York (“AABANY”) is proud to announce that Nusrat Choudhury was confirmed on June 15 by the United States Senate as a Federal Judge in the Eastern District of New York (the “EDNY”), making her the first Bangladeshi American and first female Muslim Federal Judge in the United States.

Nusrat Choudhury’s dedication to civil rights and prolific experience as a civil liberties attorney make her eminently qualified for this historic milestone. Ms. Choudhury has dealt with a wide range of procedural and substantive legal issues upon graduating from Yale Law School, through her work as a law clerk in the Second Circuit Court of Appeals and the Southern District of New York. Before her appointment, she was the Roger Pascal Legal Director at the American Civil Liberties Union (“ACLU”) of Illinois. Through her extensive federal civil litigation experience, she led cases to protect immigrants from dangerous detention conditions. She also served as counsel for community organizations on many issues, ranging from First Amendment rights, voting rights, access to reproductive health care, and rights of LGBTQ+ individuals. Ms. Choudhury has experience in federal courtrooms, managing complex cases, identifying and resolving disputes, and finding paths to facilitate settlement.

This historic confirmation reflects Ms. Choudhury’s extensive record of practicing with integrity, high ethical standards, and sensibility. Her work with colleagues, opposing counsel, and other organizations demonstrates sound judgment and the ability to work well with people, regardless of their viewpoints. Ms. Choudhury has worked closely and collegially with opposing counsel to resolve high stakes federal litigation against modern-day debtors’ prisons and policing practices for the benefit of the public good. She has also forged partnerships between the ACLU of Illinois and organizations with different views—including the Cato Institute, the Rutherford Institute, the Institute for Justice, and the R Street Institute—to advance shared principles of fairness and equal justice.

Ms. Choudhury joins the ranks of the New York judiciary as one of the few AAPI judges in the Second Circuit. According to the results of the 2020 Census, Asian Americans comprise approximately 10.8% of the population of New York State and approximately 17.3% of the population of New York City. Asian Americans were the fastest growing minority group during the past decade in New York State and nationwide. With the addition this year of Judge Arun Subramanian, Judge Dale Ho, and now Judge Choudhury, New York’s AAPI District Court Judges now make up 17.1% of all AAPI Article III District Court Judges in New York. Ms. Choudhury’s nomination represents a step in the right direction for the promotion of diversity, inclusion, and equity in New York’s federal courts. AABANY will continue to support and advance AAPI judges, whose nomination and appointment to the New York State Court of
Appeals and the United States Supreme Court remain long overdue. To date, no AAPI judges sit on New York’s highest court or the country’s highest court.

“AABANY congratulates Nusrat Choudhury on her appointment to be a Federal Judge in the Eastern District of New York, as both the first Bangladeshi American and first female Muslim United States District Court Judge in United States history,” states AABANY President Karen Kim. “AABANY commends the appointment of Judge Choudhry as a positive step in advancing diversity, equity, and inclusion in the judiciary. We believe Ms. Choudhury’s stellar litigation record and wide-ranging experience amply qualify her to serve as a Federal Judge. We look forward to seeing the contributions and insights she will bring to the administration of justice in the service of the public and the judicial system.”

For more information, please contact Yang Chen, AABANY Executive Director, at (646) 653-2168, or direct any inquiries to main@aabany.org.

The Asian American Bar Association of New York is a not-for-profit 501(c)(6) professional membership organization of attorneys concerned with issues affecting the Asian American and Pacific Islander (AAPI) community. Incorporated in 1989, AABANY seeks not only to encourage the professional growth of its members but also to advocate for the AAPI community as a whole. AABANY is a New York regional affiliate of the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association (NAPABA).

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